(c) the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) A delegation of West Bengal M.L.As. met the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies on the 4th July, 1989 to discuss the question of supply of foodgrains etc. in West Bengal. The principal demands of the delegation were increase in allotment and ensuring regular supply of good quality rice.

(c) It was explained to the delegation that; (i) there has been no discrimination against West Bengal or any other State in the supply of foodgrains. In fact, West Bengal is being allocated the largest amount of foodgrains (64,000 tonnes of rice and 80,000 tonnes of wheat per month) amongst all the States and Union Territories (ii) month-end stocks of foodgrains in West Bengal with FCI have always been much higher than the monthly allotment for the State, and (iii) consequent upon severe floods in Punjab in September, 1988 which caused extensive damage to paddy crop, the Government of India had to relax the specifications for procurement of rice. Rice of relaxed specifications has been despatched to all the rice consuming States like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal.

**Exploitation of Children**

468. SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL;
SHRI KAPIL VERMA;
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA;

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the "Washington Post" to the effect that millions of children some as young a five years old, are being forced to work, a large number of them as bonded labour as they are sold by their parents in India and if so, what are the details in this regard: and

(b) what steps have been taken to stop exploitation of children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALVIYA): (a) The said article has not been received.

(b) The following measures have been taken to prevent the exploitation of children:

1. The Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 has been enacted to prevent various forms of child abuse, such as employment of juveniles for begging, giving intoxicating liquor or narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances to juveniles and cruelty to or exploitation of juveniles. The Act also specifically provides that no juvenile under any circumstances shall be kept in a police station or jail.

2. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1386 )prohibits the employment of children below fourteen years of age in certain secified occupations and processes. It also seeks to regulate their conditions of work in employments in which they are not prohibited from working. There are provisions in several other labour laws such as the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, the Beedi and Cigar Worker's (Conditions)of Employment Act, 1946 the shops and Commercial Establishments Act of the States/ Union Territories etc. which either prohibit or regulate the employment of children in specified areas.

3. Government have also formulated the National Policy on Child Labour-1987, which provides for a number of welfare measures to minimise the exploitation of working children.

**Special Foodgrains Subsidy Scheme for Tribals**

469. SHRI V. GOPAL SAMY :

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the special features of the special Foodgrains Subsidy Scheme for tribals;

(b) the total quantity of rice supplied since the inception of the scheme to the tribal States; State-wise;

(c) what is the issue price fixed by Government for coarse rice, fine rice and super fine rice since January this year; and

(d) the quantity of rice allotted so far to the State of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Under the scheme for supply of wheat and rice at specially subsidised rates in Integrated Tribal Development project areas and the tribal majority States, foodgrains are distributed to the beneficiaries at concessional prices which are lower than the market prices and even the prices under the Public Distribution System (PDS). The scheme covers both the tribal and non-tribal living in the aforementioned areas.

(b) The total quantities of rice issued to the tribal majority States by the FCI under the scheme from the date of its introduction upto March, 1989 are indicated below:

| | Figures in Thousand Metric Tonnes |
|---|---|
| Meghalaya | 354.0 |
| Nagaland | 267.5 |
| Mizoram | 253.3 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 197.2 |
| Lakshadweep | 15.2 |
| Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 0.6 |

(c) The Central issue prices and end retail prices fixed by the Government of India w.e.f. 25-1-1989 of rice supplied under the scheme are as follows:

(Rs. per quintal)

| | Central issue price | | End retail price to consumers under the scheme |
|---|---|---|---|
| | For PDS | For ITDP areas | |
| Rice (Common) | 244 | 194 | 219 |
| Rice (Fine) | 304 | 254 | 279 |
| Rice (Super fine) | 325 | 275 | 300 |